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AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

1968

AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1968

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH1968To the Chairman and Members of the Amble Urban District Council

Vital Statistics There were 97 births as opposed to 102 in the previous year. The crude birth rate was 19.4 live births per thousand population and the adjusted rate 20.0 per thousand, the area comparability factor for births being 1.03. These rates compare with ones of 20.5 and 21.1 respectively in the District in 1967 and of 16.9 in England and Wales in 1967. Although these rates are slightly lower than in 1967 they are still considerably above the national average and the population of the District is similar to the national one in age distribution.

Total deaths numbered 65 compared with 54 in 1967. The crude death rate was 13.0 per thousand population and the adjusted rate 13.6, the area comparability factor for deaths being 1.05. These rates compare with ones of 10.8 and 11.1 respectively in the District in 1967 and of 11.9 in England and Wales in 1968. There were two infant deaths in children aged under one week and no maternal deaths.

The causes of death are shown in the table. These are recorded under the Abbreviated List of 50 causes from the International Classification of Diseases. In 1968 this list replaced the Abridged List of 36 causes. This change has meant that more conditions are specifically listed as opposed to being placed under general headings.

Immunisation The statistics show the number of children in the North 2 Area who were vaccinated and immunised during the year. The percentages of primary immunisations of infants were considerably lower than in 1967. It seems certain that this was only an apparent fall in the numbers carried out and one which will be rectified in future years. The reason for this

fall is that in the summer the schedule for immunisation was altered and whereas previously many infants had completed the course by 6 months of age. under the new schedule primary courses are not completed until 1 year of age.

Vaccination against measles with one dose of live attenuated vaccine commenced nationally. Initially it was made available for children aged 4 to 7 years, subsequently for all other children under 16 years, and to be routinely included in the immunisation programme in the second year of life.

Infectious Diseases Thirty cases of dysentery due to *Shigella sonnei* were notified or ascertained from laboratory reports. It is probable that the actual number was considerably higher. The cases were mainly amongst pupils at the junior schools during the last three months of the year and the break at the Christmas holiday seemed to interrupt the chain of infection as very few cases occurred after this. General advice was issued to schools with especial reference to toilet hygiene and additional toilet cleaning.

Food poisoning. There was one family outbreak of food poisoning due to *Salmonella typhimurium* phage type 2a. This was an acute episode with all five cases occurring on the same day. The only common food factor was frozen beef eaten for lunch that day. The establishment involved was also a food premise where cooked meats were sold. No other cases in the District occurred and this was an indication of satisfactory hygiene in the handling of food in the shop because two affected persons were food handlers. The infection did not come to light until 2 weeks after it occurred.

The Divisional Veterinary Laboratory notified an incident of *Salmonella* infections in cattle but there was no associated infection amongst farm workers and no milk was produced for human consumption.

Mussel Poisoning There was a large outbreak of food poisoning in May in another authority caused by eating mussels collected commercially on the north Northumberland coast. The poisoning was found to be caused by a form

of plankton producing a neurotoxin which was absorbed by the mussels. The neurotoxin could cause severe symptoms and even death.

Mussels in the Coquet estuary were found to be equally affected and warning notices were erected to advise individuals against eating them. No cases of this type of food poisoning were reported in the District. In any case the mussels are heavily polluted by sewage and consumption is strongly contra indicated.

Unfit Housing This is not a big problem in the District and there is only one sizeable area, which contains about 25 houses, remaining to be dealt with. This was under active consideration at the year end and Mr. Rodgett has referred to the matter under slum clearance. Only residual small groups or individual houses will then require consideration.

Twelve new houses were completed during the year and these were part of the old people's scheme which incorporated an intercommunication system with a warden's flat. Further suitable neighbouring houses will also be joined to this system. A big need in the area is for additional housing of this type especially with the pending absorption of the Radcliffe community. Small houses for old people permit the optimum use of bigger ones while also providing a more workable unit for those with diminishing capabilities and the conservation of such heat as they can afford.

Sewage Disposal The present arrangements are at best highly unsatisfactory and this matter was under active consideration during the latter part of the year. In 1969 further progress was made with a view to a combined scheme with Warkworth.

Refuse Disposal Disposal on the Braids has been discussed by Mr. Rodgett with special reference to the difficulties of control of indiscriminate

tipping and the starting of fires mainly by children. The situation is not satisfactory, is aesthetically most unattractive, and verges on the creation of a public health nuisance. The practicable alternatives have and are being considered but will undoubtedly call for additional expenditure.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 1,220 acres

The number of inhabited houses was 1,708 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 12

The estimated mid-year population was 4,990 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	56	36	92
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
Totals	<u>58</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>97</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population			19.4
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			20.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			5.2

<u>Stillbirths</u>			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			.-
Total live and still births			97

<u>Infant Deaths (Deaths under one year)</u>			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	20.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	21.8
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>	
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births	20.6

<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>	
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births	20.6

Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined
per 1,000 total live and still births 20.6

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of Deaths -
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births -

Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	34	31	65
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			13.0
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			13.6

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	1	3
" " Lung, Bronchus	2	1	3
" " Breast	-	1	1
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	3	3	6
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
Anaemias	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	14	6	20
Other Forms of Heart Disease	-	1	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	3	5	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	1	1
Infulenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	2	2
Other Diseases, Genito-urinary System	-	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	-	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1	1
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	-	1	1
All Other Accidents -	4	-	4
Totals	<u>34</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>65</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles	11
Dysentery	30
Food Poisoning	5
Infective Hepatitis	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

IMMUNISATIONNORTH NO. 2 AREA

Disease	Primary Immunisation			Reinforcing Doses		
	Under 4	4-15	Total	Under 4	4-15	Total
Diphtheria	300	47	347	348	441	789
Whooping Cough	297	47	344	211	118	329
Tetanus	301	48	349	354	522	876
Polio	331	92	423	353	366	719
Measles	175	329	516	-	-	-

	Primary Vaccination			Revaccination		
	Under 5	5-15	Total	Under 5	5-15	Total
Smallpox	250	22	272	3	15	18

There were 459 live births in the area during 1968 and the number of primary immunisations of children under 4 years of age (smallpox - under 5 years) have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

Diphtheria	-	65%
Whooping Cough	-	64%
Tetanus	-	66%
Polio	-	72%
Smallpox	-	57%

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

Alnwick U.D.	200
Alnwick R.D.	25
Amble U.D.	190
Rothbury R.D.	40
Totals	<u>455</u>

THE SURVEYOR'S & PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTSTAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. IAN G. P. FRAZER

SURVEYOR, PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR & HOUSING MANAGER

MR. J. A. RODGETT, M.A.P.H.I.

ASSISTANT SURVEYOR

MR. P. A. HILTON

CARAVAN SITES ATTENDANT

MR. W. MAVIN

CLERK/TYPIST

MISS L. M. FAIRBAIRN

Council Offices,
Amble.

To the Chairman and Members of the Amble Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1968 on the Health Conditions in the District.

The Report is mainly statistical with occasional comments. The health conditions of the District remain good, there being no major serious problems affecting the health of the population.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. A. RODGETT

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector

HOUSINGSTATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1968.

New Houses Completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	12	-	12
(b) By any other Housing Authority	-	-	-
(c) By private persons	-	2	2

Total number of inhabited houses in the District 1708

Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority 388

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

<u>Closing and Demolition</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>
1. Houses demolished in Clearance Area	-
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Area	2
3. Houses closed and not demolished	-
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	1

Repairs

<u>Houses Made Fit</u>	
5. By informal action	-
6. By owners following statutory notice	-
7. By Local Authority in default of owners	-
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	-

Houses Patched

9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accomodation	-
--	---

Slum Clearance

A great deal has been done over the last 6 years in the way of slum clearance, some by demolition and some by closure and improvement. There are not many houses left to deal with and apart from the odd individual house there only remains the area bounded by Smith Street, Henderson Street, Leazes Street and Newburgh Street and a number of these are already closed.

HOUSING

12 of the 14 old persons welfare scheme bungalows were completed and occupied in November and the scheme was officially opened in November. There is a Warden's bungalow, Communal Room and 14 one-bedroomed, self contained, bungalows. The bungalows, including the Warden's house and Communal Room, are centrally heated from a central boiler, and all are on an Internal Speech Communication System with the Warden's house. 10 other one-bedroomed bungalows in the near vicinity are also connected to the Warden's house by the Communication System, making a total of 24 old persons bungalows in contact with the Warden. The 14 bungalows are fitted with showers, hand rails at the water closets and two houses are designed for wheel chairs.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The whole Urban District is satisfactorily sewered and except for one chemical closet at a farm on the outskirts of the district, all premises are on the water carriage system.

There are two main outlets to the sea, one at the Harbour and the other off the South-East foreshore.

STREET CLEANSING AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Two road sweepers are employed who carry out other duties in addition to road sweeping, and due to the increase in the work load the two sweepers were unable to give an efficient service to all roads in the district.

The three public conveniences were cleansed daily. The conveniences at the Harbour were badly damaged by acts of vandalism and the decoration spoiled.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Household refuse is collected from properties one per week and from trade premises twice per week. The bins are lifted out and taken back by the Council's Employees. Disposal was by tipping on the Braids and as reported last year whilst a method of tipping and procedure is followed it is difficult to control fires and other nuisances as the tip is open to vandals, scrap dealers etc.

Butcher's waste from the slaughterhouses continued to be collected by a firm engaged in the manufacture of fertilizers etc.

Waste paper was disposed of by burning and condemned tinned goods were buried.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTSHousing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.as amended byHouse Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.andHousing Act, 1961.IMPROVEMENT GRANTSNo. of Separate Houses

Carried out by Local Authority under Section
9 Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

-

A. DISCRETIONARY GRANTSNo. of Separate Houses

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Applications submitted to Local Authority during the year. | 9 |
| (2) Applications rejected | - |
| (3) Applications approved | 9 |
| (4) Approximate average grant per house | £368 |
| (5) Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since the inception of the scheme. | 265 |

B. STANDARD GRANTSDuring the YearTotal to Date

- | | | |
|--|---|----|
| (1) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made. | 5 | 28 |
| (2) Number of houses so provided with:- | | |
| (a) bath or shower | - | 6 |
| (b) wash hand basin | - | 6 |
| (c) hot water supply | - | 5 |
| (d) water closet | 5 | 33 |
| (e) food store | 2 | 17 |

A. DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

The number of applications (9) consisted of no tenanted properties and nine owner/occupied properties.

The total properties improved now constitute 17% of all the properties within the District.

B. STANDARD GRANTS

All the applications included for the provision of an internal water closet.

As there are still a number of substandard houses without baths or showers within the house, no hot water system and no inside toilet facilities and a few houses still without cold water supply or sink within the house it would be gratifying to see more owners of property availing themselves of the facilities of grant aid for improvements.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two slaughterhouses within the Urban District both of which are privately owned and which comply with and are licensed as per the provisions of the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1961.

Both slaughterhouses were re-licensed with effect from 1st January and were found to be satisfactory on the routine visits made by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The table giving figures of animals slaughtered during 1968 within the Urban District is to be found on the following page.

SLAUGHTERMEN

Eleven licences to slaughter or stun animals were issued during the year and of these, one required the applicant to carry out slaughtering under supervision.

FOOD PREMISES

Inspection of food premises were made and several contraventions and deficiencies brought to the notice of the owner or person in charge. It was not found necessary to institute proceedings for any contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There were 58 premises on the register at the end of the year and all premises have received a general inspection. 25 inspections were made during the year. Contraventions found were remedied after verbal notice. No accidents were reported under Section 48.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are administered by the County Health Department who issue all dealers' Licences. New applications are forwarded to this Department for the Public Health Inspector's observations as to the suitability of the applicant and his premises.

Milk sampling within the District was carried out by the County Health Department and of the eleven samples taken, ten were found to be satisfactory and one failed the methylene blue test.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Coquet Water Board and the Council sell to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company who are responsible for distribution. Eleven samples for bacteriological and chemical analysis were taken during the year, all of which were satisfactory.

The following table gives figures of animals slaughtered during 1968 within the Urban District. All animals slaughtered were inspected.

	Steer	Heifers	Cows & Bulls	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Rams & Ewes	Pigs
Number Killed	331	2	1	-	1003	3	6
Number Inspected	331	2	1	-	1003	3	6
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>							
Whole Carcasses	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	106	1	1	-	62	1	1
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>							
Whole Carcase Condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>							
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The total amount of meat condemned amounted to 16 cwts. 10 lbs. the majority of which was liver affected by fluke and cirrhosis and abscess.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

Of the seven farm premises within the District, compliance with the Act was found to be satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL

The duties continued to be carried out during the year by the Council as per the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. One of the street sweepers who has attended Ministry of Agriculture courses was able to carry out treatments as occasion demanded in addition to his normal duties.

All treatments are carried out on receipt of complaint at both private and business premises, there being no charge made. As a result notification of infestation is not delayed and treatments can be made before major infestations occur.

Inspections of sewers showed no evidence of infestation which is considered due to the small diameter of sewers and the heavy flow therein which leaves little or no areas for infestation to occur.

The Council do not carry out contractual works at farm and agricultural premises.

The following statistics as required by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food show action taken during the twelve months ending 31st December 1968.

Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1) Number of properties in District	2121	17
2) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) insp. following notification	27	3
b) Number infested by		
(1) RATS	16	3
(2) MICE	11	-
3) Total number of properties inspected for rats and or mice for reasons other than notification	38	2
b) Number infested by		
(1) RATS	34	-
(2) MICE	4	-

The nett costs of collection and disposal (at 31st March, 1969) amounted to £6,012 and can be summarised as follows:-

Population Estimate	Number of Weekly Collections House Trade	Method of Collection	Total Cost.
5,000	1 2	One 10/12 Cu.yd. Dual Tip Karrier Vehicle.	£6012

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL COSTS

Total Cost	Number of Premises	Cost per Premises	Cost per head of Population	Rate
£6,012	1884	£3. 4. Od.	£1. 4. 1d.	12. 4.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

There was one registration under the Act.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

During the year a total of 11 licences were issued after inspection of premises and 4 of which were new tanks, all were found to be satisfactory. Once again the assistance and advice of the County Fire Prevention Officer was readily available and much appreciated.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All animals slaughtered within the District were inspected under the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 and charges made, the maximum allowed to be charged under the Act were made.

Inspections were also made at Alnwick for Alnwick Urban District Council whilst the Inspector was on holiday. An arrangement is in operation between the Inspectors to stand in for each other during holidays.

17 visits were made to food shops for the inspection of unsound tinned and other food and a total weight of 4cwts. 40lbs. was condemned.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	1	1	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	10	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	1	-	-
TOTALS	17	12	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted: (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			to H.M. Insp- ector (4)	by H.M. Insp- ector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

There is one outworker within the Urban District.

